

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A timing controller to control a timing for performing a desired operation directly or indirectly on a belt-like member at least at two operating positions including a first operating position and a second operating position separated in a circumferential direction of the belt-like member driven by a drive roll, a distance between the first operating position and the second operating position being set to a multiple of a perimeter of the drive roll, the timing controller comprising:

a clock generator to generate a clock signal having a constant period in accordance with a rotation of the drive roll;

a counter to count the clock signal generated by the clock generator, wherein the counter counts the clock signal generated by the clock generator for a number corresponding to the multiple of the perimeter of the drive roll, thereby an operation timing at the second operating position is synchronized with an operation timing at the first operating position; A timing controller according to claim 1, further comprising:

a base-clock generator to generate a base-clock signal at a period shorter than the clock generator; and

a base-clock counter to count a number of the base-clocks generated by the base-clock generator during the period from a first operation timing signal for deciding the operation timing at the first operating position to the clock signal generated by the clock generator, wherein a count value of the base-clock counter is used to correct an operation timing at the second operating position.

4. (Currently Amended) A timing controller to control a timing for performing a desired operation directly or indirectly on a belt-like member at least at two operating positions including a first operating position and a second operating position separated in a circumferential direction of the belt-like member driven by a drive roll, a distance between the first operating position and the second operating position being set to a multiple of a perimeter of the drive roll, the timing controller comprising:

a clock generator to generate a clock signal having a constant period in accordance with a rotation of the drive roll;

a counter to count the clock signal generated by the clock generator, wherein the counter counts the clock signal generated by the clock generator for a number corresponding to the multiple of the perimeter of the drive roll, thereby an operation timing at the second operating position is synchronized with an operation timing at the first operating position; A timing controller according to claim 1, further comprising:

a base-clock generator to generate a base-clock signal at a period shorter than the clock generator;

a base-clock counter to count a number of the base-clocks generated by the base-clock generator during the period from a first operation timing signal for deciding the operation timing at the first operating position to the clock signal generated by the clock generator;

a memory to store the number of the base-clocks counted by the base-clock counter; and

a decrement counter to decrement a value of the base-clock stored in the memory by the number of the base-clocks generated by the base-clock generator, wherein the counter starts to count the clock signal in accordance with a first operation timing signal for deciding the operation timing at the first operating position, and the base-

clock counter counts the number of the base-clocks generated by the base-clock generator during the period between the first operation timing signal and the clock signal to thereby store the counted number of the base-clocks in the memory, and

the decrement counter starts to decrement the counted number of the base-clocks stored in the memory when the counter counts the clock signal for the number corresponding to the multiple of the perimeter of the drive roll, and delivers a second operation timing signal for deciding the operation timing at the second operating position when a counter of the decrement counter becomes zero.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A color image forming apparatus for forming a color image by successively forming toner images of different colors on a belt-like image bearing member at least at two image forming portions including a first image forming portion and a second image forming portion separated in a circumferential direction of the belt-like image bearing member driven by a drive roll, a distance between the first image forming portion and the second image forming portion being set to a multiple of a perimeter of the drive roll, the color image forming apparatus comprising:

a clock generator to generate a clock signal having a constant period in accordance with a rotation of the drive roll;

a counter to count the clock signal generated by the clock generator, wherein the counter counts the clock signal generated by the clock generator for a number corresponding to the multiple of the perimeter of the drive roll, thereby an image formation timing at a second image forming position in the second image forming portion is synchronized with an image formation timing at a first image forming position in the first image forming portion; A color image forming apparatus according to claim 5, further

comprising:

a base-clock generator to generate a base-clock signal at a period shorter than the clock generator; and

a base-clock counter to count a number of the base-clocks generated by the base-clock generator during the period from a first image formation timing signal for deciding the image formation timing at the first image forming position to the clock signal generated by the clock generator, wherein a count value of the base-clock counter is used for correcting an operation timing at the second image forming position.

8. (Currently Amended) A color image forming apparatus for forming a color image by successively forming toner images of different colors on a belt-like image bearing member at least at two image forming portions including a first image forming portion and a second image forming portion separated in a circumferential direction of the belt-like image bearing member driven by a drive roll, a distance between the first image forming portion and the second image forming portion being set to a multiple of a perimeter of the drive roll, the color image forming apparatus comprising:

a clock generator to generate a clock signal having a constant period in accordance with a rotation of the drive roll;

a counter to count the clock signal generated by the clock generator, wherein the counter counts the clock signal generated by the clock generator for a number corresponding to the multiple of the perimeter of the drive roll, thereby an image formation timing at a second image forming position in the second image forming portion is synchronized with an image formation timing at a first image forming position in the first image forming portion; A color image forming apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising;

a base-clock generator to generate a base-clock signal at a period shorter than

the clock generator;

a base-clock counter to count a number of the base-clocks generated by the base-clock generator during the period from a first image formation timing signal for deciding the image formation timing at the first image forming position to the clock signal generated by the clock generator;

a memory to store the number of the base-clocks counted by the base-clock counter; and

a decrement counter to decrement a value of the base-clock stored in the memory by the number of the base-clocks generated by the base-clock generator, wherein the counter starts to count the clock signal in accordance with the first image formation timing signal for deciding the image formation timing at the first image forming position, and the base-clock counter counts the number of the base-clocks generated by the base-clock generator during the period between the first image formation timing signal and the clock signal to thereby store the counted number of the base-clocks in the memory, and

the decrement counter starts to decrement the counted number of the base-clocks stored in the memory when the counter counts the clock signal for the number corresponding to the multiple of the perimeter of the drive roll, and delivers a second image formation timing signal for deciding the image formation timing at the second image forming position when a count value of the decrement counter becomes zero.